

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

TOMMY P SCHLICHTING
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-07465-SC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

INDEPENDENT RAIL SOLUTIONS
Employer

**OC: 09/20/20
Claimant: Respondent (1R)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(6) – Appeal from the Statement of Charges

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On February 19, 2021, Independent Rail Solutions (employer) filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated February 9, 2021, for the fourth quarter of 2020. A hearing was held with Administrative Law Judge Stephanie R. Callahan at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, pursuant to due notice. Tommy P. Schlichting (claimant) did not participate. The employer did participate through Darrel Bish, company owner. The Department's Exhibits D1 through D2 were admitted into the record.

ISSUES:

Was the employer's protest timely?
Was the employer's appeal from the statement of charges timely?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant separated from employment on September 18, 2019 and filed a claim for benefits effective September 20, 2020. The notice of claim was transmitted to Bish via email on October 4, 2020, as he had elected to receive all information through the SIDES electronic/online system. (Department Exhibit D-1) The employer did not receive that notice, as it went to his junk mail. The first notice of the claimant's claim for benefits was the receipt of the statement of charges mailed February 9, 2021, for the fourth quarter of 2020. The employer filed its appeal of that statement of charges on February 19, 2021. (Department Exhibit D-2)

The issue of whether the claimant's separation qualifies him for benefits has not yet been investigated or adjudicated by the Benefits Bureau.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the employer did file a timely appeal to the statement of charges.

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part:

Filing – determination – appeal.

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant.

Iowa Code section 96.7(2)a(6) provides:

Employer contribution and reimbursements.

2. Contribution rates based on benefit experience.

a. (6) Within forty days after the close of each calendar quarter, the department shall notify each employer of the amount of benefits charged to the employer's account during that quarter. The notification shall show the name of each individual to whom benefits were paid, the individual's social security number, and the amount of benefits paid to the individual. An employer which has not been notified as provided in section 96.6, subsection 2, of the allowance of benefits to an individual, may within thirty days after the date of mailing of the notification appeal to the department for a hearing to determine the eligibility of the individual to receive benefits. The appeal shall be referred to an administrative law judge for hearing and the employer and the individual shall receive notice of the time and place of the hearing.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.4 provides, in relevant part:

2. An appeal from an initial decision concerning the allowance or denial of benefits shall be filed, by mail, facsimile, or e-mail, online, or in person, not later than ten calendar days, as determined by the postmark or the date stamp after the decision was mailed to the party at its last-known address and shall state the following:

- a. The name, address and social security number of the claimant;
- b. A reference to the decision from which appeal is taken; and,
- c. The grounds upon which the appeal is based.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a contributory employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 30 days from the mailing date of the quarterly statement of benefit charges.

4. Also notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a reimbursable employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim

for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 15 days of the mailing date of the quarterly billing of benefit charges.

The employer filed its appeal of the statement of charges within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law because it did not receive the notice of claim indicating the claimant had filed a claim for benefits. The employer's appeal of that statement within thirty days is timely.

The issue of whether the claimant's separation qualifies him for benefits is remanded to the Benefits Bureau for a fact-finding interview and unemployment insurance decision.

DECISION:

The February 9, 2021, statement of charges for the fourth quarter of 2020 is affirmed, pending the outcome of the remanded issue. The employer has filed a timely appeal from that statement of charges, as the notice of claim was not received.

REMAND:

The issue of whether the claimant's separation qualifies him for benefits is remanded to the Benefits Bureau for a fact-finding interview and unemployment insurance decision.



Elizabeth A. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau

September 28, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

lj/scn